

Message Text

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14-11

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SAJ-01 /069 W

----- 027273

R 121521Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8761

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, FI

SUBJECT: SORSA CARETAKER GOVERNMENT SUBMITS RESIGNATION

REF: HELSINKI 1213

1. PM SORSA LATE WEDNESDAY EVENING CALLED PRESIDENT KEKKONEN AND ASKED THAT HIS FOUR-PARTY COALITION GOVERNMENT BE DISCHARGED AS CARETAKER GOVERNMENT -- IN WHICH CAPACITY IT HAS BEEN FUNCTIONING SINCE JUNE 4. KEKKONEN IS REPORTED TO HAVE AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO REQUEST, BUT RESIGNATION NOT EXPECTED TAKE EFFECT OFFICIALLY UNTIL JUNE 13 COUNCIL OF STATE MEETING. KEKKONEN EXPECTED NAME NEW "EXPERTS" GOVERNMENT AT SAME TIME.

2. ALTHOUGH KEKKONEN IS SAID TO HAVE ALREADY DECIDED ON COMPOSITION OF NEW GOVERNMENT, NO HARD INFORMATION HAS LEAKED OUT. IN PRESS AND POLITICAL CIRCLES SPECULATION ON WHO NEXT PM WILL BE REVOLVES AROUND THREE NAMES: HELSINKI
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MAYOR TEUVO AURA (LIBERAL), PRESENT MINISTER OF INTERIOR

HEIKKI TUOMINEN (NON-PARTY), AND LABOR MINISTRY CHIEF OF CHANCERY KEIJO LIINAMAA (SOCIAL DEMOCRAT), NOT NECESSARILY IN THAT ORDER.

3. AT MOMENT LIINAMAA IS MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED AS PROBABLE PRIME MINISTER IN "EXPERTS" GOVERNMENT. LIINAMAA IS PRIMARILY CAREER CIVIL SERVANT (NUMBER TWO AT LABOR MINISTRY), ALTHOUGH HE HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY POLITICS. HE IS HIGHLY RESPECTED AND LIKED, BUT NOT A VERY DYNAMIC OR CHARISMATIC PERSON. HIS MAIN CLAIM TO FAME HAS BEEN THE SUCCESSFUL ROLE THAT HE HAS PLAYED SEVERAL TIMES AS THE CHIEF GOVERNMENT MEDIATOR IN GENERAL WAGE AND INCOMES POLICY NEGOTIATIONS AND AGREEMENTS. LIINAMAA CERTAINLY HAS THE TYPE OF EXPERTISE SORELY NEEDED IN THESE TIMES OF SERIOUS ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES. MAIN TASK FOR "EXPERTS" GOVERNMENT WILL BE PREPARATION OF NEXT YEARS' BUDGET.

4. GIVEN THE POSSIBILITY THAT CSCE SUMMIT WILL TAKE PLACE IN HELSINKI IN JULY, QUESTION OF WHO WILL BE FONMIN IN NEW GOVERNMENT IS OF MORE THAN NORMAL INTEREST. FRONT RUNNER AT THIS TIME IN GENERAL SPECULATION IS MFA SECRETARY-GENERAL MATTI TUOVINEN, RANKING MFA CAREER MAN. TUOVINEN IS MEMBER OF CENTER PARTY AND ENJOYS KEKKONEN'S CONFIDENCE. IT CANNOT BE RULED OUT THAT KEKKONEN WILL ASK PRESENT FONMIN KARJALAINEN TO REMAIN (AND PUT OFF CAMPAIGNING) IN ORDER TO KEEP AT MFA HELM WHILE CSCE IN PROSPECT FIGURE WELL-KNOWN TO EUROPEAN LEADERS.
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